

in October 1991. She was arrested by Turkish authorities in March of 1994 in the Parliament Building and subsequently prosecuted for what Turkish authorities have labeled "separatist speech" that is stemming from her exercise of her right to free speech in the defense of the rights of the Kurdish people. She was sentenced to 15 years in prison in December 1994 and remains in Ankara today.

One of the charges against Mrs. Zana was her 1993 appearance here in Washington before the Helsinki Commission of the United States Congress. We find it outrageous that although she was invited to participate at the request of Members of Congress, her participation was one of the activities that led to her imprisonment.

Mrs. Zana's pursuit of democratic change through nonviolence was honored by the European Parliament which unanimously awarded her the 1995 Sakharov Peace Prize. In addition, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have raised concern about her case.

"Mr. President," the letter goes on, "Turkey is an important partner of the United States, a NATO member, and a major recipient of our foreign aid, but its abuse of its Kurdish citizens and their legitimately-elected representatives is unacceptable. Mrs. Zana's majority Kurdish constituency gave her the mandate to represent them, but the government of Turkey has made an unconscionable effort to stop her. Her voice should not be silenced. This is just one of the many cases in which the Turkish Government has used the power of the State to abuse people, based on their political beliefs."

We ask you and your administration, Mr. President, to raise Mrs. Zana's case with the Turkish authorities at the highest level and seek her immediate and unconditional release so that we may, once again, welcome her to our shores."

Mr. Speaker, that was the letter that 153 of us wrote recently. Since then, Amnesty International has adopted Leyla Zana and her duly-elected members of parliament as prisoners of conscience. In 1995 and 1998, the Noble Peace Committee that assigns its prestigious Peace Prize to people who embody our most deepest aspirations for a more tolerant world acknowledged that Leyla Zana was one of their finalists. The City of Rome has awarded her honorary citizenship. European organizations have bestowed on her numerous awards of their own.

In 1867, Mr. Speaker, a great American, Frederick Douglass, in his "Appeal to Congress for Impartial Suffrage," summarized the situation of his family which is akin to what this resolution is demanding from the Turkish Government. Reflecting on Mr. Douglass's historical remarks, I was reminded of my encounter with Mehdi Zana and how he

too echoed the same sentiments as our own great emancipator. Mr. Douglas wrote that, "We have marvelously survived all of the exterminating forces of slavery, and have emerged at the end of 250 years of bondage, not morose, misanthropic, and revengeful, but cheerful, hopeful and forgiving. We now stand before Congress and the country, not complaining of the past, but simply asking for a better future." Simply asking for a better future.

Mr. Speaker, my resolution, supported at this time by my esteemed colleagues, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. PORTER), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), the gentleman from California (Ms. ESHOO), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), calls for a better future for the Kurds. In that future, public service is not rewarded with punishment, but honored with gratitude. In that future, languages are not banned, but cultivated as a gift of God to a people and of a people to its offspring. And only in that future, Mr. Speaker, lies the promise of peace and justice for the Kurds and a brighter future with the Turks.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my friends to support us as we help the peoples of Turkey to leap into the future for the good of themselves, as well as our battered humanity.

Mr. Speaker, asking for a better future is what we are doing here tonight.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from John Straub, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 5, 2000.

Hon. DENNIS J. HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for production of documents to Custodian of Personnel Records, U.S. House of Representatives issued by the Superior Court of the District of Columbia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

JOHN STRAUB,  
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. WELDON of Florida (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of personal reasons.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DAVIS of Illinois) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.  
Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. SANDERS, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. SHERMAN, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FOLEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. NORWOOD, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mrs. NORTHUP, for 5 minutes, April 12.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. ROGAN, for 5 minutes, today.  
Mr. THUNE, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee had examined and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 1374. An act to designate the United States Post Office building located at 680 U.S. Highway 130 in Hamilton, New Jersey, as the "John K. Rafferty Hamilton Post Office Building".

H.R. 3189. An act to designate the United States Post Office building located at 14071 Peyton Drive in Chino Hills, California, as the "Joseph Iletto Post Office".

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, April 10, 2000, at 12:30 p.m., for morning hour debates.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6978. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the approved retirement and advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list of Lieutenant General William J. Donahue, United States Air Force; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6979. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the approved retirement